Foreign Earnings by EPZ Units

4308. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE he pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (No: 10 of 1998) suggesting that in the Export Processing Zone units the net foreign exchange earnings during the period 1992-93 to 1995-96 have been negative;

(b) whether any similar analysis of net foreign earnings is available for the subsequent yean and

(c) the meiisures that are proposed to raise the net earnings of foreign exchange from the EPZ units?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) According to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (No: 10 of 1998), units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have effected an export of Rs, 9,224.95 crores against an import of Rs. 6,370.11 crores during the period 1992-93 to 1995-96. This represents a net foreign exchange earning of Rs. 2854.84 crores or 45%.

During the subsequent two years i.e. 1996-97 and 1997-98. units in Export Processing Zones have effected an export of Rs. 9156.22 crores against an import of Rs. 5290.41 crores, resulting in net foreign exchange earning of Rs. 3865.81 crores or 73%.

Policy and procedures relating to the EPZ schemes are constantly under review with a view to giving further impetus to exports and raising the net earnings of foreign exchange.

Market Development Assistance

4309. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is market development assistance;

(b) to whom it is given;

(c) who were the beneficiaries during the last two years;

(d) the amount which has been allocated during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRSHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Market Development Assistance is utilised to assist Export Promotion Councils, Grantee Institutions and other exporters in their efforts to promote trade and related activities being undertaken to stimulate and diversify the country's export trade.

(c) A list of beneficiaries for the last two years is enclosed as Statement *(See below)*

(d) An amount of Rs. 30.00 crores has been allocated during the current financial year. __

Statement

List of Beneficieries of Market Development Assistance for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98

(A) ExpcH-t Promotion Councils (EPCs)

1. Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin.
2. Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
3. Chemical & Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
4. Basic Chemical, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics, EPC, Mumbai.
5. Engineering Export Promotion Coumcil, Calcutta.
6. Electronics & Computer Software EPC^ New Delhi.
7. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi.
8. Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Coumcil, Mumbai.
9. Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras.
10. Indian Silk Export Promotion Coumcil Madras.
11. Council for Leather Exports, Madras.
12. Plastics Export Promotion Coumcil, Mumbai.
13. Overseas Construction Council of India, New Delhi.
14. Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
15. Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Coumcil, Mumbai.
16. Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.